

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 636

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. H. Keith Johnson, founder of  
Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated (DCI).

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we salute those individuals who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. H. Keith Johnson, the founder of Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated (DCI), which is based in Nashville and celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, serving people with kidney disease in thirty states, DCI is the largest nonprofit kidney health provider in the country, caring for more than 15,000 patients in more than 270 clinics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. H. Keith Johnson founded DCI while he was completing his nephrology training at Nashville VA Medical Center in the late 1960s; at the time, Vanderbilt University Medical Center had three dialysis stations and could only treat a few chronic kidney disease patients; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson and a fellow nephrologist in training stayed late in the night at the hospital dialyzing patients; after many sixteen-hour days, they began brainstorming the idea of opening a free-standing dialysis clinic, modeled after one at the NW Kidney Center in Seattle, Washington; and

WHEREAS, after securing the seed money to start the clinic from his father, also a physician, Dr. Johnson made Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated, a reality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson and his team understood that eighty percent of patients needing dialysis did not have insurance coverage that paid for dialysis care and could not afford treatment; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the challenges faced by these individuals, the team unanimously decided that DCI should be a nonprofit organization and also determined that any excess revenues generated would be used for research and education in the field of kidney disease or in other ways that would benefit people with kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, in April 1971, Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated, was established; a location was secured for the first clinic; negotiations were held with Vanderbilt to move the patients over to the new facility; and patients began dialyzing. DCI remained a not-for-profit organization even after Medicare funding became available for these patients and still does to this day; and

WHEREAS, since creating DCI, Dr. Johnson and his team formed DCI Donor Services to provide for organ and tissue recovery and transplantation and operate two other organ procurement organizations; and

WHEREAS, DCI also created an annual summer camp for children with kidney disease, who have never experienced camp because of their need for dialysis; since its inception, DCI has given over \$188,000,000 to benefit people with kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, Dr. H. Keith Johnson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and is worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Dr. H. Keith Johnson on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated (DCI), and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.